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FIG. 4 illustrates a flow diagram of a process 400 usable by dock 100 to receive voice input from a user and to provide audio output generated by portable electronic device 120 to the user according to an embodiment of the present invention. Blocks 402-412 of process 400 correspond to blocks 302-312 of process 300, illustrated in FIG. 3, and are described in detail above.

At block 412 (corresponding to block 312 of process 300) processor 202 of dock 100 can transmit the message to portable electronic device 120 to activate the voice recognition mode of portable electronic device 120, and in response to the received message, portable electronic device 120 can activate the voice recognition mode.

Portable electronic device 120 can provide an indication to the user of the activation of the voice recognition mode using the functionalities of dock 10. For example, processor 222 of portable electronic device 120 can transmit audio output to processor 202 of dock 10, the audio output indicating activation of the voice recognition mode. Processor 202 of dock 10 can transmit the audio output to speaker 112 of dock 100 for presentment to the user. Processor 222 of portable electronic device 120 can also transmit a message to processor 202 of dock 100 to utilize one or more of the user interface components 206 of dock 100 to provide an indication to the user that the voice recognition mode of portable electronic device 120 is activated.

At block 414, microphone 114 of dock 100 can receive voice input from the user. As explained above, the voice input can include a user request to utilize one or more services, applications, and/or functionalities of portable electronic device 120. Microphone 114 can transmit the received voice input including the user request as an electrical signal to processor 202 of dock 100.

At block 416, processor 202 of dock 100 can transmit the voice input including the user request to processor 222 of portable electronic device 120. As explained above, processor 222 can process the user request, retrieve internal and/or external data related to the request, and generate audio output including a response to the user request. Processor 222 of portable electronic device 120 can transmit the audio output to processor 202 of dock 100.

At block 418, processor 202 of dock 100 can receive the audio output including the response to the user request from processor 222 of portable electronic device 120.

At block 420, processor 202 of dock 100 can transmit the received audio output including the response to the user request to speaker 112 for presentment to the user.

As explained above, upon deactivation of the voice recognition mode of portable electronic device 120, dock 100 can receive a message from processor 222 of portable electronic device 120 indicating deactivation of the voice recognition mode. In response to the deactivation message (and/or the expiration of a predetermined period of time), processor 202 of dock 100 can reactivate the listening mode of dock 100 (i.e. return to block 406 of process 400) to listen for further audio input from the user or other source.

As will be understood by those skilled in the art, the present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the essential characteristics thereof. Various configurations described herein may be combined without departing from the present invention. The above described embodiments of the present invention are presented for purposes of illustration and not of limitation. The present invention also can take many forms other than those explicitly described herein. Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain, using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodi-

ments of the invention described herein. Accordingly, it is emphasized that the invention is not limited to the explicitly disclosed methods, systems and apparatuses, but is intended to include variations to and modifications thereof which are intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing input at dock for a portable electronic device, the method comprising:
   activating a continuous listening mode on the dock;
   detecting audio input at a microphone integrated within a housing of the dock;
   comparing the audio input to a stored audio file, wherein comparing is done at the dock, wherein the continuous listening mode on the dock is deactivated while the audio input is being compared to the stored audio file, and wherein comparing includes determining whether the audio input matches the stored audio file;
   reactivating the continuous listening, mode at the dock when it is determined that the audio input does not match the stored audio file;
   transmitting a message requesting activation of a voice recognition mode on the portable electronic device when it is determined that the audio input matches the stored audio file, wherein the message is transmitted using a communication interface of the dock, and wherein when the message is received at the portable electronic device, the voice recognition mode on the portable electronic device is activated; and
   deactivating the continuous listening mode of the dock when the voice recognition mode on the portable electronic device is activated.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising detecting additional audio input at the microphone integrated within the housing of the dock.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising transmitting the additional audio input using the communication interface of the dock.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing an indication that the voice recognition mode on the portable electronic device has been activated.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising performing an initial setup process before activating the continuous listening mode on the dock.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising, transmitting, by the dock, an authentication message to the portable electronic device via the communication interface of the dock.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the dock receives a message from the portable electronic device via the communication interface, the message indicating deactivation of the voice recognition mode of the portable electronic device.

8. A dock, comprising:
   one or more processors;
   a memory coupled to the one or more processors and containing instructions that, when executed by the one or more processors cause the one or more processors to perform operations including:
   activating a continuous listening mode on the dock for a portable electronic device;
   detecting audio input at a microphone integrated within a housing of the dock;
   comparing the audio input to a stored audio file, wherein comparing is done at the dock, wherein the continuous listening mode on the dock is deactivated while the audio input is being compared to the stored